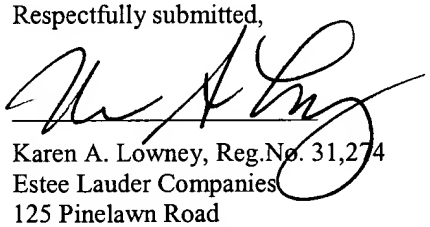
components". Applicants are unaware of what the Examiner means by "desires". If the Examiner is talking about compounds that represent additional components of the claims, Applicants definitely do wish to continue to pursue claims with these additional components included. Claims 10 and 15 already define specific additional components which can be subdivided no further, and in fact have also been identified in the previous office action as allowable. If the Examiner is looking for a specific sterol, as in claims 11 and 13, Applicants note cholesterol. For a fatty acid, in claims 11, 12, and 13, linoleic acid is specified. For a ceramide, as in claim 13, ceramide III is designated, and for a sunscreen as in claim 16, titanium dioxide is designated.

Notwithstanding the foregoing elections, Applicants strenuously object to the current election of species at such a late stage in the prosecution of this application. Applicants have made every effort to advance the prosecution of this application, and have made all claims amendments the Examiner has indicated as necessary to render the claim allowable. The Examiner has obviously had more than ample opportunity, in two previous office actions, to examiner the present claims and impose this election of species, and indeed had properly indicated allowable subject matter. The Examiner now prejudices Applicants' interests by further delaying prosecution with this restriction. Applicants should not be prejudiced by the Examiner's indecision on how to properly examine the application in the first two office actions. Because of the prejudice to Applicants' interest, and the previous indication of allowable claims, withdrawal of this election requirement and allowance of the claims indicated as allowable, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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